

Script – Judging Old Garden Roses

Slide 1

Welcome to the American Rose Society program on Judging Old Garden Roses.

Slide 2

(ARS Presentation)

Slide 3

(ARS schools)

Slide 4 The Family Tree

Old Garden Roses are those varieties belonging to a rose **class** that was in existence before 1867, the date the first hybrid tea, “La France”, was introduced. Please note – rose varieties introduced AFTER 1867 can still be OGRs - this still confuses many people! The ‘class’ is old, the ‘variety’ is of any date.

Slide 5 Species

Description of the species rose

Slide 6 Species roses are also known as "wild roses". They are once blooming, usually five-petaled blooms on a bushy plant that can range from 18 inches to over 20 feet.

Most Species are listed by their Latin binomial name, beginning with Rosa - with a capital ‘R’, and the variety name in lowercase, with the entire name in italics. The first name applies to all species of the genus—*Rosa* is the name of all roses—but the entire ‘binomial’ applies only to a single species. This is *Rosa laevigata* more commonly known as the “Cherokee Rose”. Species roses are always shown under their Latin name.

Slide 7 Today we will discuss several major classes of Old Garden Roses: Albas, Bourbons, Centifolias, Chinas, Damasks, Hybrid Gallicas, Hybrid Perpetuals, Mosses, Noisettes, Portlands, Species, and Teas. We will show examples of each class while discussing the differences in color, form, and growth, which are important identifying criteria when judging Old Garden Roses.

Slide 8 There are some lesser known Old Garden Rose classes. Most of these have fewer than a dozen members and are not likely to be seen at shows.

Slide 9 These roses are the main parents (known as ‘studs’) of future roses in each OGR class.

Slide 11 Albas (meaning "white") are once-blooming, upright, dense, tall plants over 6 feet tall, that are very hardy and disease resistant. They are characterized by their soft blue-gray foliage and their stems with sparse, uniform prickles. This

is “Alba Semi-plena” (prior to 1867), a popular Alba. Albas are usually very fragrant. Although Alba does mean “white” there are exceptions – note that “Maiden’s Blush” is a pink alba.

Slide 12 An alleged chance cross between Autumn Damask and a China resulted in the Bourbon class. Bourbons are a varied class. Most are repeat blooming plants from 2 to 15 feet tall, with fragrant, full, and often quartered blooms. This is “Souvenir de la Malmaison” (1843), one of the most popular varieties in this class, and a great show rose. There is a bush and a climbing form.

Slide 13 Centifolias are the "cabbage roses" made famous in still life paintings by the Dutch masters. Centifolia, or "one hundred petals", are tall plants over 6 feet, that are once blooming. This is “Rose de Meaux” (before 1867), one of the dwarf Centifolias. Centifolias mostly produce pink blooms and are known for their large showy sepals.

Slide 14 Damasks are known for their intense, heavy fragrance. Large pink or white blooms form on a medium sized plant up to 5 feet tall, which has a "mixed bag" of prickles. The foliage is matted and folded to form a “V” down the middle. The terminal leaflet in most Damasks bends down. This is “Leda” (before 1867), one of the most popular Damasks. It repeats bloom although most Damasks are once blooming. Damasks usually have a strong fragrance.

Slide 15 Chinas are repeat blooming, small plants from 18 inches to 3 feet tall. Most Chinas have stems too weak to support the small, non fragrant blooms that usually come in clusters. Chinas are well known for their dramatic color change.

The correct listings for China and Hybrid China cultivars will be found in the 2007 Official List of Approved Names, and in MR XII. The repeat bloomers that came from the Far East are Chinas, and the once-bloomers that came from crosses with European roses are the Hybrid Chinas.

This is “Archduke Charles” (before 1837), a common exhibition Hybrid China. This slide was taken when the bloom first opened. The next slide...

Slide 16 ... of the same bloom was taken three days later. Note how the color changes to red as it ages. This is where “Masquerade”, “Over The Rainbow”, and many others got their color changing characteristics.

Slide 17 Hybrid Gallicas are the oldest of the European Old Garden Roses, and one of the oldest rose classes, although Chinas are probably older. They are once blooming, small, bushy plants, with fine, soft prickles. The deeply furrowed, rough leaves tend to grow more outward or upward from the stem. Gallicas are well known for their fragrance and brilliant colors, thus earning them the

nickname, "Mad Gallicas". Gallicas are usually fragrant. This is "Charles de Mills" (before 1746), a popular show rose.

Slide 18 Hybrid Perpetuals are the most common Old Garden Rose class seen at shows. They were very popular in the mid to late 1880's when there were more than 4,000 varieties available. Most Hybrid Perpetuals are repeat blooming, tall plants over 6 feet, with full, fragrant blooms in mostly pinks and reds. Two other popular Hybrid Perpetuals are "Paul Neyron" and "Baronne Prevost".

Slide 19 The original Moss rose was a sport of the Centifolia, the Cabbage Rose. Mosses are sports of Centifolias and a few Damasks, and were named for the mossy growth on the peduncles and sepals, This "moss" releases a piney fragrance when rubbed between the fingers. Most Mosses are once-bloomers such as this rose, Crested Moss (1827). It is also known as Chapeau de Napoleon (Napoleon's Hat) as the sepals resemble the three-sided hat worn by Napoleon. Mosses are 3-6 feet tall plants. Some are repeat bloomers.

Slide 20 An interesting rose trivia question is to name the only rose class that originated in the United States. John Champneys from Charleston, South Carolina created the Noisettes in 1811. Noisettes are large, repeat blooming, rambling plants up to 20 feet tall, with pliable canes. The blooms are usually produced in clusters as shown in this slide of "Alister Stella Gray" (1894).

Slide 21 From the rose "Autumn Damask" came a class called Portlands. They are small, repeat blooming plants to 4 feet tall, with short peduncles, giving the appearance that the blooms "sit" in the foliage. This is "Comte de Chambord" (1860), one of the most popular Portlands. There are less than 20 Portlands commercially available today.

Slide 22 Teas are small to medium sized plants to 4 feet tall. They are generally known for their large blooms on weak stems, which causes the bloom to "droop". Many have good "Hybrid Tea" form, like this rose, "Catherine Mermet" (1869). (You may want to mention the famous tea "Sombreuil" is now classed as a LCI and shows with the CLIMBERS not the OGRs) Note that "Catherine Mermet" was introduced in 1869 - but is still classed as a Tea and is therefore an OGR. The date of introduction DOES NOT AFFECT its status as an OGR - only the award it is eligible to win (awards covered in a later slide).

Slide 23 Approved ARS references are: Modern Roses (latest volume), ARS Handbook for Selecting Roses, ARS Handbook of Approved Exhibition Names, registration pages on the ARS web site, *American Rose* magazine up through the December issue of the year before the show, latest Registration column in *American Rose* magazine, the Combined Rose List. ARS sources take precedence over the CRL.

Slide 24 Same point scoring system which applies to all other hort classes.

Slide 25 We will now show some examples of form.

Slide 26 The species rose *R. foetida bicolor* (Austrian Copper) exemplifies the Single form (4-8 petals).

Slide 27 This is *Rosa roxburghii*, another species rose. It is commonly known as the "Chestnut Rose". This is an example of the double or "plena" form.

Slide 28 This is "Königin von Dänemark" (1816), one of the few pink Albas. It shows us an example of quartered form (which is NOT a form fault).

Slide 29 This slide of "Louise Odier" (1851) shows the cupped form common to Bourbons.

Slide 30 "Catherine Mermet" from the tea class of OGRs shows tea form with the petals unfurling from the center symmetrically.

Slide 32 This is "Green Rose", a Hybrid China (prior to 1856). Be careful about your comments if you don't like this rose. You might be overheard which could affect your ability to judge objectively. "Green Rose" is commonly seen at shows and makes a great filler material for rose arrangements. The petals of this rose have reverted back to leaves.

Slide 33 Remember that characteristics such as color striping which are typical of the variety are not faults. (This is distinct from the greenish or white color fault streaking.) A typical of the variety color striping is exemplified by the Species rose *R. gallica versicolor*.

Slide 34 Please note the spotting or mottling as seen in "Marbree" (1858 Portland). It is typical of the variety

Slide 35 Here is another example of an unusual color pattern with the unique white edging seen in "Roger Lambelin" (1890 Hybrid Perpetual). This is NOT loss of substance.

Slide 36 These are natural muddy or faded colors as seen in "Cardinal de Richelieu" (1847 Hybrid Gallica).

Slide 37 Remember color also applies to stamens. Stamens can be naturally dark red, purple, bronze, reddish pink, and brown as well as the more familiar golden yellow. Bright, fresh, non-discolored stamens are a strong indication of bloom freshness. Note the beautiful fresh stamens on this slide of the Hybrid Bracteata "Mermaid" (1918).

Slide 38 Another approved characteristic of Old Garden Roses that is generally not acceptable when judging modern roses is the green "pip" in the center as seen in this slide of "Madame Hardy" (1832 Damask).

Slide 40 Note the crisp, fresh petals on this bloom of the Bourbon "Mme. Ernest Calvat" (1888).

Slide 41 Note the creping effect on the fresh petals as seen in "Celsiana" (prior to 1867, Damask).

Slide 43 Old Garden Roses and Shrubs may be shown with one set of a stem-on-stem condition, such as this "dog leg", where the new growth emanates from older wood.

Slide 44 To disbud or not is up to the exhibitor. However, the sidebuds should not distort the bloom as shown in this slide of "Rose de Rescht" (c. 1950 Portland).

Slide 45 If not disbudded, sidebuds should enhance the bloom as in this slide of "Petite de Hollande" (Centifolia, before 1867).

Slide 48 Both of the roses seen above are Species roses. The *R. banksiae lutea* ("Yellow Lady Banks") generally produces small blooms of 1-2 inch diameter while the much larger *R. laevigata* ("Cherokee Rose") can be 4-5 inches in diameter. In competition the better example of the respective variety should win the Genesis award. It may or may not be the largest specimen exhibited. Size should be in the range that is typical for the variety.

Slide 51 Some roses will grow with the blooms coming directly off the cane. This lateral growth can be pleasing if presented properly, such as this example of *Rosa moschata* (1540). The *Rosa banksiae* subspecies can only be shown this way. Judge according to degree of distraction.

Slide 53 These books are good references for judges who want to learn more about Old Garden Roses.

Slide 54 To be a better judge of Old Garden Roses, the judge should become very familiar with these varieties, as they are the roses most likely to be seen at rose shows.

Slide 55 IMPORTANT: Update on "Sombreuil" - now classed as a large flowered climber - no longer classed as a tea and no longer eligible for Dowager Queen. This rose is quite popular and judges will see it frequently at rose shows. Color can be very white.